

HOUSE BILL 7096

By Harris

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 9;
Title 49; Title 67 and Chapter 367 of the Public
Acts of 2023, relative to educational expenses for
school safety plans.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 49, Chapter 6, Part 8, is amended by
adding the following as a new section:

(a) As used in this section:

(1) "Eligible school" means an LEA or a public charter school located in a
county that has a crime rate of thirteen percent (13%) or higher for violent
offenses as of October 1, 2023, based on CrimInsight data from the Tennessee
bureau of investigation, CJIS division, statistical analysis center;

(2) "Fund" means the school bulletproofing grant fund established by
subsection (c); and

(3) "Violent offense" means homicide, rape, robbery, and aggravated
assault.

(b) The department of education shall establish and administer a school
bulletproofing grant program. The purpose of the program is to provide grants to eligible
schools to have installed a clear, bullet-resistant or entry-resistant film on the glass panel
of each exterior entry or basement-level window and door to prevent individuals from
entering the school building without authorization by breaking the glass in an exterior
entry or basement-level window or door.

(c) There is created a separate fund within the general fund to be known as the
school bulletproofing grant fund. The fund is composed of:

(1) Funds appropriated by the general assembly for the fund; and

(2) Gifts, grants, and other donations received by the department for the fund.

(d) It is the legislative intent that funding in the amount of one hundred million dollars (\$100,000,000) be appropriated in fiscal year 2023-2024 in an appropriations act for awarding grants from the fund.

(e) Subject to the availability of funds, the department shall allocate and disperse grants each fiscal year to eligible schools. The grants must be awarded on a first-come, first-served basis. A grant awarded under this section is limited to the cost associated for the school to install bullet-resistant or entry-resistant film in accordance with subsection (b); provided, that the grant is not more than fifty thousand dollars (\$50,000) per eligible school in a fiscal year.

(f) Moneys in the fund must be invested by the state treasurer for the benefit of the fund in accordance with § 9-4-603. Interest accruing on investments and deposits of the fund must be returned to the fund and remain part of the fund. Any unencumbered moneys and any unexpended balance of the fund remaining at the end of a fiscal year do not revert to the general fund, but must be carried forward until expended in accordance with this section.

(g) The state board of education may promulgate rules to effectuate this section in accordance with the Uniform Administrative Procedures Act, compiled in title 4, chapter 5.

(h) On or before January 1, 2025, and by January 1 of each subsequent year, the department shall prepare a report to the general assembly regarding the funds received and payments made by the fund.

SECTION 2. This act takes effect October 1, 2023, the public welfare requiring it.